

1. A tether retainer comprising:  
a base;  
a flap attached to the base, the flap having a slot; and  
a locking tab positioned on the base, the locking tab constructed to pass through  
5 the slot and cause the retainer to enclose a portion of a tether.
2. A retainer as in claim 1 wherein the retainer encloses the tether between  
the base and the flap.
- 10 3. A retainer as in claim 1 further comprising a tear seam.
4. A retainer as in claim 1 wherein the flap folds over the base.
5. A retainer as in claim 1 wherein the retainer is constructed to be mounted  
15 on an interior vehicle surface.
6. A retainer as in claim 1 further comprising a mounting portion having one  
or more bolt holes.
- 20 7. A retainer as in claim 6 wherein the retainer is mounted on an interior  
vehicle surface via one or more fasteners that pass through the bolt holes.
8. A retainer as in claim 1 further comprising a clearance hole.

9. A retainer as in claim 8 wherein the clearance hole is positioned proximate one or more gripping tabs.

5 10. A retainer as in claim 1 wherein the locking tab further comprises one or more tips.

11. The retainer of claim 1 wherein the locking tab may be raised into an extended position.

10 12. The retainer of claim 1 wherein a tooling assembly may mechanically enclose the tether within the retainer.

13. The tether as in claim 1 wherein the retainer is constructed such that it may be nested within a tooling assembly.

14. A retainer as in claim 13 wherein the tooling assembly comprises a positioning blade that may be passed through the slot.

20 15. A retainer as in claim 13 wherein the tooling assembly comprises an alignment pin.

16. A retainer as in claim 13 wherein the tooling assembly comprises a receiving portion that is designed such that when the retainer is nested in the tooling assembly, the retainer is positioned on the receiving portion.

5 17. A retainer as in claim 13 wherein the tooling assembly further comprises a press that is configured to contact the retainer.

18. A retainer as in claim 17 wherein the press contacts the retainer by pushing against the flap.

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19. A tether retainer comprising:  
a base;  
a flap attached to the base, the flap having a slot; and  
a locking tab positioned on the base, the locking tab constructed to pass through  
5 the slot and cause the retainer to enclose a portion of the tether between the base and the  
flap.

20. A retainer as in claim 19 further comprising a tear seam.

10 21. A retainer as in claim 19 wherein the retainer is constructed to be mounted  
on an interior vehicle surface.

22. A retainer as in claim 19 further comprising a mounting portion having  
one or more bolt holes.

15 23. A retainer as in claim 19 further comprising a clearance hole.

24. A retainer as in claim 19 wherein the locking tab further comprises one or  
more tips.

20 25. A retainer of claim 19 wherein the locking tab may be raised into an  
extended position.

26. A retainer as in claim 19 wherein the retainer is constructed such that it may be nested within a tooling assembly.

27. A retainer as in claim 19 wherein a tooling assembly may mechanically  
5 enclose the tether within the retainer.

28. A tooling assembly designed to nest a tether retainer having a base, a flap attached to the base, the flap having a slot, and a locking tab positioned on the base, the locking tab constructed to pass through the slot and cause the retainer to enclose a portion of a tether, the tooling assembly comprising:

5 a receiving portion constructed such that when the retainer is nested, the retainer is positioned on the receiving portion;

a positioning blade positioned on the receiving portion; and

a press constructed such that it may contact the retainer.

10 29. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the positioning blade raises the locking tab into an extended position.

30. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the positioning blade is designed to pass through the slot.

15 31. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the positioning blade extends upwards from the receiving portion.

32. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 further comprising an alignment pin.

20 33. A tooling assembly as in claim 32 wherein the alignment pin is constructed to pass through a clearance hole in the retainer.

34. A tooling assembly as in claim 32 wherein the alignment pin extends upwards from the receiving portion.

5 35. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the tooling assembly is made of metal.

36. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the retainer encloses a portion of the tether between the base and the flap.

10 37. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the press pushes against the flap and ensures that the positioning blade and the locking tab pass through the slot.

15 38. A tooling assembly as in claim 28 wherein the tooling assembly mechanically encloses the tether within the retainer.

39. A method for retaining a tether comprising the steps of:

obtaining a tether retainer, the retainer comprising a base, a flap attached to the base, the flap having a slot, and a locking tab positioned on the base, the locking tab constructed to pass through the slot and cause the retainer to enclose a portion of a tether;  
5 placing the tether on the base; and  
enclosing a portion of the tether within the retainer.

40. A method as in claim 39 wherein the enclosing step comprises passing the locking tab through the slot.

41. A method as in claim 39 further comprising the step of folding the flap over the base.

42. A method as in claim 39 wherein the portion of the tether is enclosed  
15 between the base and the flap.



43. A method for retaining a tether comprising the steps of:

obtaining a tether retainer, the retainer comprising a base, a flap attached to the base, the flap having a slot, and a locking tab positioned on the base, the locking tab constructed to pass through the slot and cause the retainer to enclose a portion of a tether;

5       nesting the tether retainer on a tooling assembly comprising a receiving portion, a positioning blade positioned on the receiving portion, and a press;

placing the tether on the base; and

enclosing a portion of the tether within the retainer.

10       44. A method as in claim 43 wherein the enclosing step comprises passing the locking tab through the slot.

15       45. A method as in claim 43 wherein the portion of the tether is enclosed between the base and the flap.

46. A method as in claim 43 wherein the locking tab is positioned into an extended position when the retainer is nested in the tooling assembly.

20       47. A method as in claim 43 comprises passing the positioning blade through the slot.

48. A method as in claim 43 wherein the tooling assembly further comprises an alignment pin.

49. A method as in claim 48 wherein alignment pin passes through a clearance hole in the retainer when the retainer is nested in the tooling assembly.

5 50. A method as in claim 43 wherein the enclosing step comprises folding the flap of the over the tether that has been placed on the base.

51. A method as in claim 50 wherein the enclosing step further comprises passing the locking tab through the slot.

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52. A method as in claim 51 wherein the enclosing step further comprises the step of lowering the press onto the retainer.

53. A method as in claim 52 wherein the lowering step ensures that the locking tab passes through the slot.

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